CONFIDENTIAL

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION FROM
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY	Hungary	DATE OF INFORMATION	1950
SUBJECT	Scientific - Miscellaneous, Academy of Sciences	DATE DIST.	28 Mar 1951
HOW PUBLISHED	Monthly periodical		
WHERE PUBLISHED	Moscow	NO. OF PAGES	5
DATE PUBLISHED	Aug 1950	SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.	
LANGUAGE	Russian		

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Vestnik Akademii Nauk SSSR, No 8, 1950, pp 60-65.

THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, HUNGARIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

N. V. Svetaylo

The Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Magyar Tudomanyos Akademia) was founded in 1825 on the initiative of the famous Hungarian social activist, Istvan Szechenyi.

The Austrians were well aware of the political significance, aims, and tasks of the Academy of Sciences. The Charter for the academy was not approved by the administration of the Austrian Imperialists until 1830, and then, only after it had been amended to include a provision leaving the selection of the academy president to the Emperor of Austria.

After the 1848 revolution, the work of the academy was temporarily stopped, and it became a dead organization, as most of the intelligentsia were disenfranchised. Subsequently, Archduke Joseph Hapsburg was named president of the academy with the result that science and scientific research in the Academy were completely divorced from life and the people.

In 1948, the People's Republic of Hungary formed a new academy under the directorship of Erno Gero. This scientific center was given supervision over the science and research activities of universities, institutes, and laboratories of Hungary, on the theory that the improvement of the scientific life of the country would be possible only through planned scientific research and close cooperation between theoretical science and practical science, and science and industry.

As a result of the work of this new scientific center, the leading members of the old Academy of Sciences understood that, at present, science could not in any way be divorced from life, but must proceed hand in hand with the social development of the country, particularly the construction of socialism. Pal Gombas, Lajos Legesi, Gyula Moravcsik and other members of the academy published numerous articles requesting its reorganization. As a result, the old Academy of Sciences convened a general assembly.

CONFIDENTIAL

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

STATE	X	NAVY	X	NSRB		DISTRIBUTION													
ARMY	X	AIR	X	FBI															

On 31 October 1949, the General Assembly of the old Academy of Sciences approved the new charter for the Academy of Sciences of the Hungarian People's Republic, and a temporary executive committee was elected to manage the affairs of the new academy, particularly with respect to the election of new administrative bodies and active members.

The best members of the old academy, and the most progressive and best scientists of the country were elected members of the new Academy. Among them were such well-known scientists as Gyula Nemet, Jozsef Maker, Frigyes Riesz, and others.

In all of their planning of projects, Hungarian scientists have looked to the Academy of Sciences USSR as their model, since they considered the USSR the only nation in which forward-looking science serves the interests of the people, and has successfully established a firm relationship between science, practice, and industry.

On 14 November 1949, the new charter of the Academy of Sciences was approved by the Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic. On 30 November, the temporary executive committee called a general assembly of the academy, and at that time its administrative bodies were elected. After their election, the temporary executive committee and the old academy ceased their activities.

The new charter stipulates that "the Hungarian Academy of Sciences is the highest scientific agency of the Hungarian People's Republic, in which are united the most brilliant and leading scientists of the country." The Academy of Sciences is directly subordinate to the Council of Ministers, Hungarian People's Republic, and must submit periodic reports on its activity.

The fundamental purpose of the reorganization of the Academy of Sciences was the fostering of a closer relationship between economic and cultural problems of the Hungarian People's Republic by means of the development of theoretical and applied sciences. The new charter of the academy provides that the study of natural resources, the productive forces of the country, and various problems of governmental interest to the republic, fall within the competence of the newly formed academy. The charter charges the Academy of Sciences with the study of the culture and various scientific achievements of mankind, and provides for their adoption into practice. The academy, must, by means of propagating scientific knowledge, assist in the cultural awakening of the Hungarian people.

The Academy of Sciences, Hungarian People's Republic is composed of honorary and active members, corresponding members, and foreign honorary members. The active members are selected from among the corresponding members. Hungarian scientists who are living outside Hungary and who conduct their scientific work in the interest of the Hungarian people can be elected active members or foreign honorary members. All the members of the old Academy of Sciences who have not been elected to the new academy can take part in the work of the academy with right of vote and have the title of voting member. Voting members of the academy can be, at some time in the future, elected to vacancies in the ranks of active or corresponding members.

Active members are elected at general assemblies by a simple majority voice vote and are confirmed by the Presidium, Academy of Sciences.

The charter of the academy stipulates that every newly elected active member or corresponding member must, within a year's time after his election, submit a scientific report at a meeting of his particular division.

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

After submission of such a report, the member obtains a diploma from the Presidium, Academy of Sciences, which gives him the right to bear the title Academician or, if the case warrants, the title of Corresponding Member. If an active member or a corresponding member does not submit a report within the one-year period, his membership is revoked.

Academicians who do not conduct work in the interests of the state and the people, or who take part in activities which have nothing to do with the general work plan of the academy, can be excluded from the academy.

The supreme body of the academy is the General Assembly. In the period between assemblies, the Presidium, which is composed of 15 members, has responsibility for supervising the work of the academy. The president of the Academy of Sciences, who is also the chairman of the Presidium, is elected by the General Assembly for a period of 5 years. To assist him in the Presidium there are two vice-presidents and the general secretary. Members of the Presidium can be honorary or active members of the academy. The Presidium approves work plans for the various agencies of the academy, and sees to it that the scientific research plans of the departments are fulfilled.

At present, there are 99 active members and 69 corresponding members in the Academy of Sciences, Hungarian People's Republic.

The president of the Academy of Sciences is the famous therapist, Istvan Rusznyak, Laureate of the Kossuth Prize and Professor at the University of Budapest; the vice-presidents are Lajos Legeti (Eastern studies) and Pal Gombas (theoretical physics), the general secretary is Gyorgy Alexits (mathematics).

Members of the Presidium are Gyorgy Lukacs (philosophy), Karoly Novobatzki (theoretical physics), Emil Molnar (history), Tibor Erdey-Gruz (physical chemistry), and Bruno Straub (biochemistry).

The Presidium also includes the chairmen of all the six departments of the academy -- Department of Literature and Language -- Gyula Nemet (Turki studies); the Department of Social Sciences and History -- Bela Fogaras (philosophy); Department of Natural Sciences and Mathematics -- Frigyes Riesz (mathematics); Department of Biological and Agricultural Sciences -- Jozsef Marek (veterinary); Department of Medical Sciences -- Geza Illes (surgery); and the Department of Technical Sciences -- Gyula Mihailich (engine building).

In addition to the departments of the Academy of Sciences, there are 47 commissions and a Chemical Group (which unites the academician-chemists of all the divisions).

The following institutes are part of the departments: biochemistry, electron microscopy, applied mathematics, history, language and literature, economics, law, seismology, agrobiology, study of occupational diseases, blood transfusion, and nutrition studies.

The academy also has a Laboratory for Vacuum Technology, an astronomical observatory, and a library which has over 900,000 titles.

At present, the Institutes of Biochemistry, Seismology, History, Law, Economy, Language and Literature, as well as the astronomical observatory are in the process of reorganization. Starting in 1950, all the scientific research work of the institutes, laboratories, and commissions of the academy will comply strictly to plans and will be directed toward solving some of the fundamental national, economical, and theoretical problems. The newly reorganized Institute of Applied Mathematics has been selected to play an important role in the reconstruction of industry, particularly with respect to making mathematics work for industry.

Work has been started by the agrobiological scientific research agencies of the academy on the task of introducing and developing the agriculture of the Hungarian People's Republic, particularly with respect to the introduction of new agricultural methods. In recent years, these agencies have succeeded in promoting seed selection in agriculture, and have also introduced crop rotation in several governmental and cooperative agricultural enterprises. Professor Rezso Manninger has developed a new safe preparation against swine erysipelas, for which he received the Kossuth Prize First Class.

Professor Lajos Kreybig and his associates worked on the compilation of a soil chart for Hungary. In addition, they developed new methods for the use of phosphate fertilizers and greatly increased the effectiveness of these fertilizers.

Professor Kurt Sedelmeyer, working in the field of selective plant breeding is making wide use of methods introduced by Academician T. D. Lysenko of the USSR. He was able to obtain a large number of valuable agricultural plants such as the winter barley "Beta," the sugar beet S2410 (an edible beet), etc. Professor Sedelmeyer has been awarded the Kossuth Prize.

Hungarian physicists are taking an active part in the solution of various difficult problems of contemporary science and industry. Pal Gombas, vice-chairman of the Academy of Sciences, is working in the field of quantum mechanics. He has made many significant contributions in the development of the theory of metals which permits characterization of their chemical and physical properties. Professor Gombas has been awarded the Kossuth Prize twice: in 1948, for research in the field of the theory of metals; and in 1950, for research in the field of useful metals and nuclear physics.

Professor Tibor Neugebauer is leading his associates in research in the field of quantum mechanics and optics. Physicist Erno Vinter has constructed a radio tube which uses 75 percent less electric power than those currently in use.

Much interest is being displayed in the field of gravitational and magnetometric studies initiated by physicist Lorand Eotvos who also constructed the gravimeter, now widely used for determining deposits of coal and petroleum.

There is increasing liaison between scientists and industrial workers in the Hungarian People's Republic. In May 1950, the workers at the Hofherr Plant in Budapest met with the academicians of the Department of Technical Sciences, Academy of Sciences. They discussed methods for improving the productivity of labor and for facilitating technological processes. It might be mentioned that the best workers usually are those who submit their problems to scientists prior to practical experimentation.

Istvan Rusznyak, president of the Academy of Sciences, Hungarian People's Republic, has stated several times that in the work of the Hungarian scientists, great and unexcelled aid is given by the modern and enlightened socialistic Soviet science.

The Hungarian scientists are rapidly adopting the scientific research methods of Soviet scientists. For example, Professor Tere is utilizing the advanced Michurinian methods for obtaining new types of fowls; Professor Boros, an ophthalmologist, is conducting experiments on the transplantation of cornea of the eye, utilizing a method similar to that initiated by the Soviet scientist B. P. Filatov, etc.

After its reorganization, the Academy of Sciences, Hungarian People's Republic, established a close working relationship with the Academy of Sciences USSR, and the other academies of the People's Democracies.

At the beginning of 1950, Academy President Istvan Rusznyal and General-Secretary Gyorgy Alexits addressed letters to Academician S. I. Vavilov, president of the Academy of Sciences USSR, reporting the reorganization of the Hungarian Academy and the desire of its leaders to establish greater liaison between the two academies. In his reply, Vavilov gave every assurance that a long-lasting friendship would be established between the two academies.

In the spring of 1950, a delegation of workers of science and culture of the Hungarian People's Republic went to Moscow. Among them were: Gyorgy Alexits, general-secretary of the Academy of Sciences; Bruno Straub, member of the Presidium; and Professor Gyorfy, biologist of the University of Budapest. The delegation was received by Academician Vavilov and members of the Presidium, Academy of Sciences USSR.

The visitors were very much interested in questions of the organization and the planning of scientific research work in the USSR, particularly with respect to the Five-Year Plan, the coordination of the activity of the agencies of the Academy of Sciences USSR, the introduction of scientific research work into practice, and the relationship of science and industry. Academician Vavilov answered all of their questions.

The delegation also discussed problems for improving and strenghtening the ties between the Academy of Sciences, Hungarian People's Republic, and the Academy of Sciences USSR.

Professor Alexits delivered an address at the Mathematics Institute imeni V. A. Steklov, Academy of Sciences USSR, where he was received by Academician I. G. Petrovskiy, academician-secretary, Department of Physico-mathematical Sciences, and Academicians I. N. Vinogradov and N. V. Keldysh. Soviet scientists introduced Professor Alexits to achievements in Soviet mathematical science and also discussed problems for the training of personnel.

Professors Straub and Gyorfy were received by Academician A. I. Oparin, academician-secretary, Department of Biological Sciences, who discussed general problems of the organizational work of the department and the training of biologists in the USSR. Also discussed were special problems on methods for biochemical research on plants and their vegetative hybridization, on the action of enzymes and the course of biochemical processes in living cells, and biochemical improvement of various plants. Professor Straub informed the members of the Academy of Sciences USSR of the fundamental research themes at the Institute of Biochemistry, Academy of Sciences, Hungarian People's Republic, whose main tasks appear to be studies of the biochemistry of muscle activity, particularly in connection with the properties of the albumin of actin and the conversion of phosphoro-organic compounds.

After the visitors had completed their official work, Professors Straub and Gyorfy visited the Institute of Biochemistry imeni A. N. Bakh, Academy of Sciences USSR.

The library of the Academy of Sciences USSR has established a comprehensive book exchange with the Academy of Sciences, Hungarian People's Republic, and its various agencies. In 1949, more than 3,655 titles of scientific literature were sent to 68 scientific agencies in Hungary.

- E N D -